

Vermont Prescription Monitoring System

YOUR HEALTH DEPARTMENT & YOU

What is VPMS?

The Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (known as VPMS) tracks the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances – those drugs most likely to lead to abuse, addiction or patient harm if they are not used properly.

VPMS is operated by the Vermont Department of Health, with the goal of providing timely and useful information to both prescribers (physicians, dentists, podiatrists, etc.) and pharmacists to assist them in the proper treatment of their patients.

Benefits of VPMS

Early Intervention

Identifies patients who can benefit from early assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation for drug abuse and addiction.

Coordination

Facilitates coordination of care between health care providers.

Education and Information

Provides useful feedback to prescribers on their own prescribing trends, information on a patient's prescription history, and information for a provider who suspects a patient may not be complying with orders regarding prescription use.

Public Health Initiatives

The public health community can use information from the VPMS to monitor trends and address prescribing problems of the population on a state or regional basis.



Prescriber Information

The Vermont Prescription Monitoring System (VPMS) is a web-based application designed for prescribers and pharmacists to use as a tool to provide better care for their patients, and to reduce the danger of addiction or overdose. In many states with existing prescription monitoring programs, prescribers are the primary users of the information in the database. The program collects prescription data for Schedule II, III and IV drugs dispensed by pharmacies licensed by Vermont.

Data is always available to registered providers online through the VPMS website:

healthvermont.gov/adap/VPMS.aspx

Quarterly reports are automatically generated by the VPMS on patients who exceed certain thresholds related to the number of providers or pharmacies used. These "Patient Threshold Reports" are mailed to the prescribers to whom the prescriptions were attributed to insure that they have a complete picture of the patient's prescribed controlled substance use.

About Confidentiality

Patient confidentiality is carefully protected. Direct access to the VPMS database is limited to pre-registered providers and pharmacists. All other database queries are handled by VPMS staff.

Will there be a "Chilling Effect"?

Some people are concerned that because of the database, prescribers will be less likely to provide appropriate pain medications to patients who need them. Experience in other states that have prescription monitoring programs, however, has shown the opposite effect: increasing access to appropriate medications for people who are truly in pain.

How accurate is the data?

A number of data checks and data-matching functions are used to maximize the value of the VPMS data. However, since the primary source of the data is the prescribing pharmacy, VPMS encourages dispensing pharmacies to be thorough, accurate and complete in their record reports to the VPMS. The data will only be as good as the patient information received from pharmacies.



Monitoring System

healthvermont.gov/adap/VPMS



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